



MINNESOTA BOARD OF MEDICAL PRACTICE

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NATUROPATHIC DOCTOR FACT SHEET

History

Minnesota legislators enacted a law in 2008 establishing a registration system for naturopathic doctors. The Board of Medical Practice enforces the requirements of the naturopathic doctor registration system and provides information to consumers and other interested persons.

Registered Naturopathic Doctor Advisory Council

The Registered Naturopathic Doctor Advisory Council is appointed to advise the Board of Medical Practice on issues regarding naturopathic doctor registration standards, enforcement of laws, and complaint review. The Council is composed of five naturopathic doctors residing in Minnesota, one physician with expertise in natural medicine and one public member.

Title Protection

Nonregistered individuals are prohibited from using the titles "Registered Naturopathic Doctor," "Naturopathic Doctor," "Doctor of Naturopathic Medicine," or using in connection with the individual's name the letters "R.N.D." or "N.M.D." or any other words, letters, abbreviations, or insignia indicating or implying that the individual is a registered naturopathic doctor. Naturopathic doctors registered in Minnesota shall display the registration at their practice setting. Once registered, registrants are given the exclusive right to use the protected titles. Nonregistered individuals holding themselves out as a naturopathic doctor are subject to criminal prosecution for the unauthorized practice or violation of the regulatory laws.

Registration Requirements

To establish eligibility for registration, an applicant must successfully complete an approved naturopathic medical education program accredited by the Council on Naturopathic Medical Education (CNME) or an equivalent organization and passed the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Exam. Applicants applying under reciprocity/endorsement must have a current, unrestricted credential in another state/province and must have passed the Naturopathic Physicians Licensing Exam or, if prior to 1986, a state/province board exam. Applicants applying by endorsement must have been licensed, registered, or certified in another state/province prior to January 1, 2005 and have completed a 60 hour course and pharmacotherapeutics examination.

Temporary Permit

A temporary permit is available to applicants who are licensed, registered, or certified in another state or province and meet all the requirements for permanent registration and wish to practice before final approval is granted by the Board. The temporary permit is valid from the date of approval until the next Board meeting at which a decision is made on the application.

Scope of Practice

The practice of naturopathic medicine includes, but is not limited to, the services set forth in Minn. Stat. §147E.05. The law also sets forth prohibitions on specific services. Naturopathic doctors must not practice or claim to practice as a medical doctor, surgeon, osteopath, dentist, podiatrist, optometrist, psychologist, advanced practice professional nurse, physician assistant, chiropractor, physical therapist, acupuncturist, dietician, nutritionist, or any other health care professional unless the naturopathic doctor also holds the appropriate license.

Continuing Education

Each registered naturopathic doctor must complete at least 25 contact hours of Board-approved continuing education each year as a condition of registration renewal. The Board approves continuing education programs that have been approved for continuing education credit by the American Association of Naturopathic Physicians, the American Chiropractic Association, the American Osteopathic Association Bureau of Professional Education, the American Pharmacists Association or any of their constituent state associations, or an organization approved by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education.

At least 5 hours must be in pharmacotherapeutics. The requirement takes effect for newly registered naturopathic doctors during the first complete year immediately following the date registration was granted. Registrants are asked to attest to completion of continuing education by reporting to the Board at renewal time. Continuing education documentation must be retained by each registrant in the event they are selected for an audit.

Renewal Cycle

Registration must be renewed annually on or before December 31 of each year. Renewal notices are sent approximately 45 days prior to expiration. It is the naturopathic doctor's responsibility to keep the Board advised of their current address. The Board is obligated to mail the renewal application to the address on file. Failure to receive the renewal documents does not relieve naturopathic doctors of their renewal obligation.

Individuals whose registered status has lapsed for two years or less must submit evidence of continuing education compliance and pay all back fees (including the late fee) in order to regain registered status. The registration of individuals whose registration has lapsed more than two years will be cancelled due to nonrenewal. A registrant may request cancellation of registration in good standing providing the Board is not investigating the person or begun disciplinary proceedings. Individuals with cancelled registration who wish to return to practice in Minnesota must apply for and meet the registration requirements in existence at time of application.

Cancellation of Registration

Registrations that have lapsed for two years due to nonrenewal will be cancelled for nonrenewal. Naturopathic doctors who wish to cancel registration may do so upon approval of the board providing the doctor is not under investigation. Cancellation would be reported as cancellation in good standing. Once registration has been cancelled, new registration must be obtained by applying for registration and fulfilling initial registration requirements in existence at that time.

Inactive Registration

Registration may be placed in formal inactive status upon application to the Board and payment of a fee. Registration may be restored by registrants upon application to the Board documenting that continuing education requirements have been met and upon payment of all back fees as well as current fees. At least 25 continuing education hours for each year of inactive status is required to restore active registration. Individuals who have been on inactive status for more than five years must complete eight weeks of Council-approved supervision by another registered naturopathic doctor.

Emeritus Status

Registrants may apply for emeritus status which allows registrants to retain the title registered naturopathic doctor but does not allow patient contact.

If any part of this Fact Sheet conflicts with the Minnesota regulations, the regulations take precedence. It is your responsibility to understand and comply with the regulations. Please call the Board offices if you have any questions.